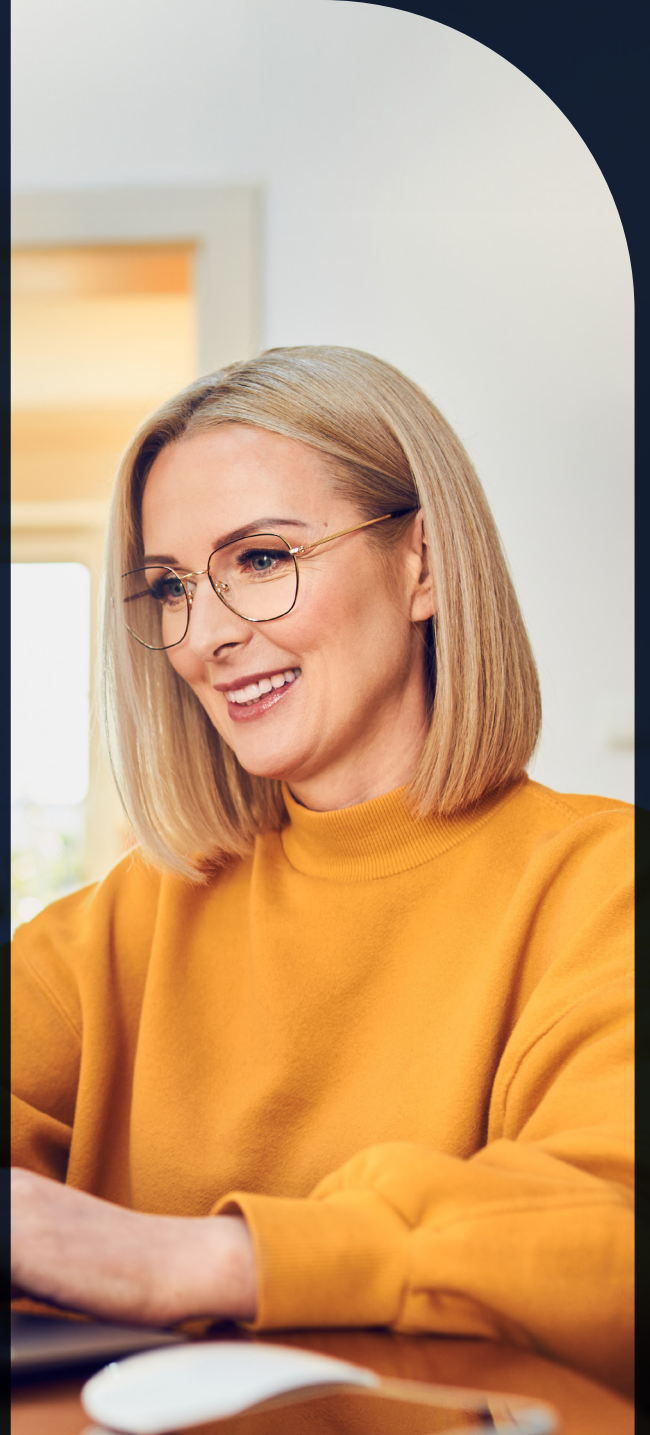




CLIENT GUIDE

USING AI IN YOUR LEGAL CASE



This client guide explains the risks associated with relying on AI tools, such as ChatGPT, for legal advice. The guide explores how AI can provide false or outdated information, compromise your privacy and potentially harm your case. AI can be used safely for simple tasks, but an expert family lawyer is the most reliable source of legal guidance.

AI AND THE LAW

It can be tempting to ask Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, like ChatGPT, for answers about your divorce, separation, or child arrangements.

It's quick, it's available 24/7, and it can give you instant answers without cost. But when it comes to family law, relying on AI for legal advice can create real problems for your case.

AI OFTEN GETS THE LAW WRONG

AI doesn't think like a solicitor. It does not have the expertise, insight or instinct. Instead, it works by predicting what words are most likely to follow one another based on the information it was trained on. That information may be incomplete, out of date or simply wrong.

THE KEY THINGS TO BE AWARE OF:

- **Made-up answers ("hallucinations")**
AI can produce convincing but false legal information. It can even invent fake court cases and quote laws that don't exist.
- **Out-of-date law**
Family law changes all the time. AI tools can't guarantee that they are aware of the latest rules or court decisions.
- **No context**
Every family is different. AI can't take into account your history, the best interests of your children, or how a judge might use discretion in your case. AI can only suggest outcomes based on patterns, not principles of fairness or equality. Your solicitor will take all your relevant family factors into account and explain how it will be viewed by a judge within that context.
- **Built-in bias**
AI is trained on real world data, which can contain hidden biases. In cases involving domestic abuse, cultural difference or financial imbalance, those biases can lead to unfair or insensitive suggestions.



YOUR INFORMATION MAY NOT STAY PRIVATE

Family law cases involve some of your most personal details, including detailed financial information, information about your children and potentially messages you have sent and received. If you put this information into a public AI tool, it can expose your private data.

Your data may be stored:

Most free AI tools keep and reuse what you type in to train and improve their systems. This means your data is not private and can be stored indefinitely on their servers.

Risk of hacking:

Although AI providers may have security measures in place, the risk of a data breach remains present. Even well-known platforms have had security breaches, revealing personal and billing information in the past.

A FAMILY LAWYER IS THE BEST SOURCE OF LEGAL ADVICE

Whilst AI can be useful, it cannot replace the judgement, expertise and ethical responsibility of a qualified solicitor. Law firms use secure and professional tools to ensure information remains confidential. Lawyers are also the first to know about developments in law, so advice is always up-to-date and accurate.



Lack of protection:

There is a professional and ethical duty for law firms to protect private information. This is a core pillar of the solicitor-client relationship. AI tools do not have this responsibility. Using one means you bypass the protection guaranteed from a regulated law firm, and you can put your case at risk.



Speak to a family lawyer:

If you have a legal question, an expert family lawyer is the first port of call. Solicitors have access to the most current and reliable legal resources, as well as the specific training to interpret and apply the law to your unique situation.



Save yourself time and money:

You might think that AI will save you time or money, but relying on incorrect information often causes delays, procedural mistakes and extra costs to fix the damage. AI-generated material will need to be checked and unusually rewritten, adding to your costs.

Family law matters can be emotional and often highly stressful. It's natural to want quick answers. However, AI is not a substitute for professional legal advice. Using it for that purpose can put your case at risk.



WHERE CAN AI BE HELPFUL?

When used carefully, and for the right purposes, AI can be a helpful tool, but only for non-legal tasks. For example, it can help you:

- **Draft or polish everyday letters or emails** (remember: not legal documents or anything involving personal data).
- **Create to-do lists, timelines or schedules** to stay organised during your proceedings.
- **Provide links to general resources** for emotional support, such as guidance on coping with stress.

The key is to use AI as a support tool, rather than a substitute for professional advice. Always have a human, and preferably a solicitor, review anything that could affect your case or involve legal decisions. This ensures that your information is interpreted correctly and your privacy is protected.

YOUR AI CHECKLIST

AI can be helpful, but it is not always accurate. Never assume that the answers are true. Always fact-check against a reliable source and check with a lawyer before taking action.

TO STAY SAFE:



Check with a family lawyer

Always tell your lawyer if you are using AI-generated information, and run it by a legal team to avoid mistakes.



Protect your privacy

Never enter personal or case-specific details that you wouldn't want publicly accessible.



Limit AI to simple admin tasks only

Use it for organisation, drafting everyday letters, or summarising general information, not for legal reasoning or strategy.

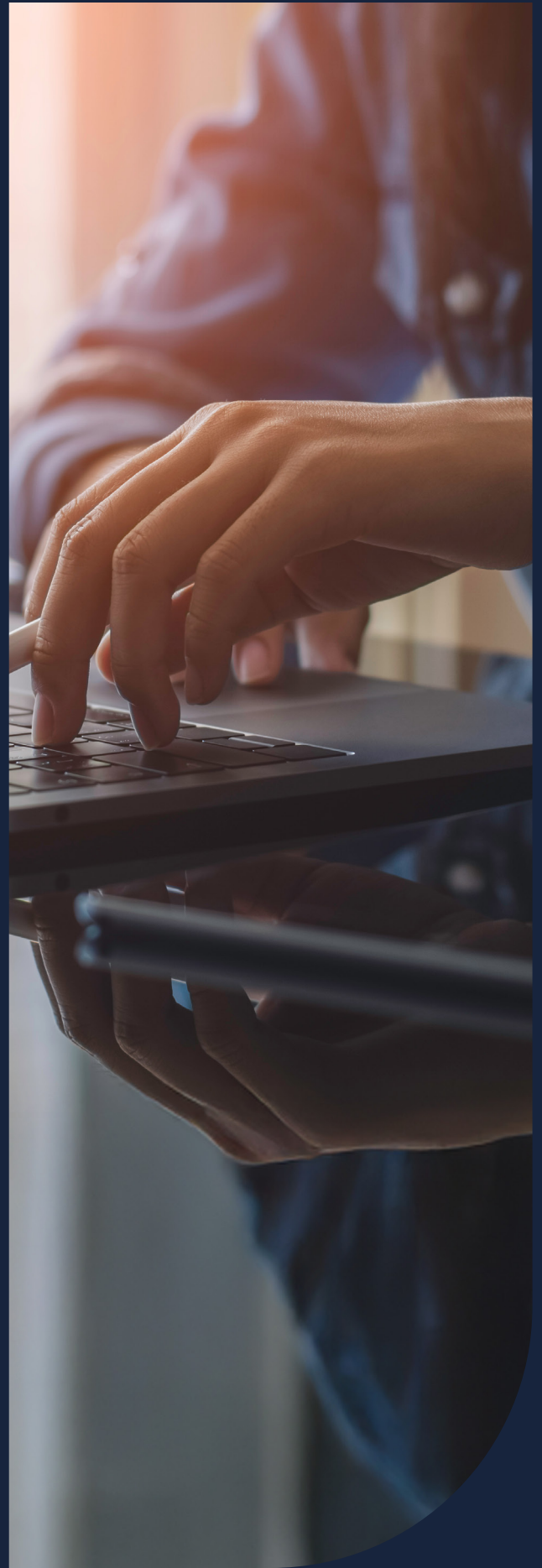


Fact-check everything

AI can be very convincing but it can produce false, outdated or misleading answers.

A family lawyer can support you through every stage of your family law matter. AI cannot replace a lawyer's judgement, empathy or training.





NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Call our Client Care Team on **0330 838 7456**
to speak with one of our specialist family lawyers
or visit **stowefamilylaw.co.uk**



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